



1 (C) A public or private place not designed for or  
2 ordinarily used as sleeping accommodations for  
3 human beings.

4 "Houseless" does not include being imprisoned or otherwise  
5 detained under an act of Congress or a state law.

6 "Life-sustaining activities" includes but is not limited to  
7 eating, sleeping, standing, sitting, and using and moving freely  
8 in a public space.

9 § -2 **Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to  
10 ameliorate adverse effects on persons when they lack a home.

11 § -3 **Houseless bill of rights; findings.** The  
12 legislature finds that no person's rights, privileges, or access  
13 to public services may be denied solely because a person is  
14 houseless, and a houseless person should be granted the same  
15 rights as any other person.

16 § -4 **Bill of rights.** (a) The houseless bill of rights  
17 includes the following guarantees to houseless persons:

- 18 (1) The right to engage in life-sustaining activities,  
19 including the right to use and move freely in public  
20 spaces, including but not limited to public sidewalks,  
21 public parks, public transportation, and public



- 1 buildings, in the same manner as any other person  
2 without discrimination on the basis of housing status;
- 3 (2) The right to equal treatment by all state and county  
4 agencies without discrimination on the basis of  
5 housing status;
- 6 (3) The right to access fair housing and equal employment  
7 opportunity without discrimination due to the lack of  
8 a permanent mailing address or the fact that the  
9 person's mailing address is the mailing address of a  
10 shelter or social service provider;
- 11 (4) The right to emergency medical care free from  
12 discrimination on the basis of housing status;
- 13 (5) The right to vote, register to vote, and receive  
14 documentation necessary to prove identity for voting  
15 without discrimination on the basis of housing status;
- 16 (6) The right to protection from disclosure of records and  
17 information, without proper legal authority, and the  
18 right to confidentiality of records and information in  
19 accordance with the Federal Homeless Management  
20 Information System, the Patient Protection and  
21 Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18001 et seq.), and the



1 Federal Violence Against Women Act (42 U.S.C. 13701 et  
2 seq.);

3 (7) The right to a reasonable expectation of privacy in  
4 personal property, including but not limited to  
5 identification, food, water, medication, and all  
6 objects necessary for life-sustaining activities, such  
7 as clothing, blankets, pillows, and backpacks, to the  
8 same extent as personal property in a permanent  
9 residence;

10 (8) The right to access temporary and permanent shelters  
11 without discrimination on the basis of any protected  
12 class;

13 (9) The equal opportunity to have access to public hygiene  
14 facilities and live in decent, safe, sanitary, and  
15 healthful accommodations, regardless of housing  
16 status, but not including access to environmentally  
17 sensitive areas; and

18 (10) Action by the State, a county, or private organization  
19 shall not impede an individual's ability to maintain  
20 access to services essential to survival, including  
21 but not limited to medical services, shelter, food,



1           and water; provided that as used in this paragraph,  
2           "action by the State" shall not include law  
3           enforcement activities and efforts to promote health,  
4           safety, and welfare.

5           (b) The rights afforded to houseless persons to ensure  
6           that their person, privacy, and property are safeguarded and  
7           protected as set forth in this chapter are available only  
8           insofar as they are implemented in accordance with other state  
9           or county laws, state rules and regulations, federal law, and  
10          the constitutions of the State and the United States."

11          SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

12



**Report Title:**

Houseless Bill of Rights

**Description:**

Defines specific rights granted to a person who is houseless including equal access to housing, jobs, and shelters, equal treatment by government agencies, and access to life-sustaining activities and essential services. (SD1)

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